

BOODLE CONSPIRACY IS BREAKING UP

Edmund Bersch Pleads Guilty—Others
May Follow Suit.

St. Louis: The most pronounced sensation of the St. Louis boodle investigation since the return of John K. Marshall from Mexico developed Monday when it was announced that Edmund Bersch, Charles F. Kelly and Charles A. Gutke had decided to plead guilty and throw themselves upon the mercy of the court.

Bersch at once took this course, sentence being deferred until Friday. Kelly and Gutke will make their plea on July 11.

Following closely upon this announcement came the withdrawal of Thomas J. Rowe as attorney for the three defendants.

Kelly and Gutke, it is expected, will go before the June grand jury and disclosures of a sensational nature are expected with regard to Kelly's famous trip to Europe, from which he returned only after the expiration of the time within which certain wealthy alleged bribe-givers could be indicted for putting up the \$47,500 boodle in the city lighting deal. This matter, it appears, is to be reopened.

Bersch, Kelly and Gutke are all charged with bribery in this deal. All of them have been convicted in the suburban deal, Bersch and Kelly of perjury and Gutke of bribery. Bersch and Gutke received sentences of five years each and Kelly two years. All of these cases were appealed to the supreme court.

The action of Bersch, Kelly and Gutke is said to have been determined upon at a conference held the night following the affirmation of the penitentiary sentences of Lehmann and Hartmann. It indicates the final breaking up of the boodle conspiracy which has made the punishment of bribe-givers and bribe-takers apparently almost impossible in Missouri.

JUDGE HARGIS, FAMOUS FEUDIST, FATALLY HURT

Kentuckian Is Thrown from His Horse
at His Home Near Jackson.

Mount Sterling, Ky.: James Hargis, county judge of Breathitt county, was fatally injured Monday at his home near Jackson. He was thrown from his horse, sustaining a broken shoulder and internal injuries. Physicians state that his condition is such that he will die.

Hargis has been termed the leader of the Hargis clan in the now famous Breathitt war, and is an uncle of Thomas White, who was convicted of the murder of J. B. Marcum. It has been charged that the plot to murder Marcum was formed in Hargis' store and that he was the instigator of the crime. Marcum's widow has a suit for \$100,000 pending against Hargis now for damages.

When the news of the accident which will probably cause Hargis' death was received men whom he had known to have stood by and protected were thrown into a panic. Curtis Jett, now in the penitentiary for life for the Marcum crime, has all along counted on the influence of Hargis to secure him a pardon, and in the event he should die it is believed those who have been under him will talk and the history of the feud which has started the civilized world will be told for the first time.

Hargis was on his way to see his mother when the accident occurred.

SLOCUM OFFICIALS ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE

Coroner Blames Company's Represent-
ative for Disaster on the Steamer.

New York: The coroner's jury in the Slocum inquest has returned a verdict, finding:

"That the immense loss of life on the General Slocum was due to the misconduct of the directors of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company. That Captain Van Schalk is criminally responsible. That Captain Pease of the Grand Republic, as captain of the steamboat company's fleet, is criminally responsible in that he failed to properly equip the Slocum with fire apparatus. That Mate Flannagan acted in a cowardly manner. That the action of Inspector Lundberg should be brought to the attention of the Federal authorities."

Coroner Berry has issued warrants for the arrest of the directors and officials of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company. Inspector Lundberg and Mate Flannagan have been held in \$1,000 bail each.

Hail Damages Illinois Crops.

Sycamore, Ill.: About 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon a destructive wind and hail storm passed over this section. For fifteen minutes stones fell thick and fast, until the ground was white with them. Some were as large as hickory nuts. Fruits were knocked off the trees and damage done to crops.

Fighting Front of 120 Miles.

London: The Tokyo correspondent of the Morning Post says that the Japanese second army has affected a juncture with the first army and that the whole force now has a fighting front of 120 miles.

Report Kai Chau Taken.

London: The Tokyo correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that severe fighting took place at Kai Chau on June 25, which resulted in the capture of that place on the morning of June 26.

MAY KNOW ABOUT DAMAGE TO AIRSHIP

Charles F. Meyers, Discovered Loiter-
ing Near Aerodrome, Is Arrested.

St. Louis: Charles F. Meyers, giving his home as Warren, Mass., was arrested Tuesday night at 9 o'clock by Police Inspector Gaffney at the World's Fair on suspicion of having some knowledge of the cutting of the gas envelope of Santos-Dumont No. 7, airship, which was cut early Tuesday morning at the aerodrome, in which it was housed, near the Administration building.

Meyers was taken into custody by Gaffney and taken to the station on the World's Fair grounds where he was seated by Lieutenant Walsh and several detectives, who are working on the case. He was searched at the station and a pocketknife and the plans of a flying machine found on his person.

He admitted that he was interested in aerial navigation and also greatly interested in Santos-Dumont. He denied any evil disposition toward the latter's machine, and said that he would like very much to see him succeed.

His answers were rambling and incoherent and seemed to indicate a disordered mind.

The knife found on him was closely examined, but betrayed no evidences of tampering with the gas bag or any other indication that it had been used to slash the silken bag. He could give no clear account to the officers of his whereabouts Monday night or Tuesday morning, but denied that he had any hand in the injury to the Santos balloon.

He accounted for his presence near the aerodrome by saying that he wanted to see the famous airship, and also to see the aeronaut and ask him to allow him to make the ascent with him on the Fourth. He said that he had been in St. Louis two weeks. He was held incommunicado at the station Tuesday night until further developments.

Meyers is about 45 years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches in height, dark mustache and was clothed like a man in ordinary station in life. His manner was that of a man who was not mentally sound.

Santos-Dumont has gone to Paris to be gone for six or seven weeks. He has gone to get the necessary parts to repair the gas bag of his airship destroyed early Tuesday morning by some person unknown to the authorities.

To bring to justice the culprit or culprits who slashed the gas envelope of Santos-Dumont's airship the World's Fair management has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the guilty person or persons.

The proposed flight of Santos-Dumont on the Fourth of July has been declared off, as he says it will be impossible to use the machine until it has been repaired.

WITNESSES TESTIFY THAT MURDERER CHURCH IS SANE

Attorneys Apparently Fail to Substan-
tiate Plea of Insanity.

Warrenton, Mo.: After examining about thirty witnesses, the attorneys defending William E. Church, the confessed murderer of his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Yeater, failed utterly, up to the closing of Tuesday night's session of the court, to introduce any evidence to substantiate their plea of insanity. He calmly looked the jurors in the eye and smiled.

When he was led back into his cell at the supper hour he made the remark that he would do it again if the opportunity should present itself.

Witnesses testified that Church had displayed a vicious and brutal tendency toward animals and younger companions, but they all stated that they thought him perfectly sane and able to realize the enormity of the crime.

L. D. Drake, superintendent of the Boonville Reformatory, was the first witness called for the defense. He stated that Church, while an inmate of that institution, was addicted to bad habits and possessed a degree of low mentality, but was perfectly sane.

Incident Probably Closed.

Port au Prince, Hayti: The French cruiser Jurien de la Graviere arrived here Thursday. The incident of the shooting of the French and German Ministers is here asserted to have been closed by renewed formal apologies, which have been accepted by the French and German Ministers. The captain of the French cruiser and his staff paid a visit during the day to President Nord.

Rain Retards Illinois Harvest.

Waterloo, Ill.: A general rain throughout southern Illinois during Saturday, Sunday and Monday has prevented farmers from harvesting this year's large wheat crop, which is being considerably damaged.

Launch Gunboat at Manila.

Manila: The gunboat Woodruff, the first war vessel built by the army under the direction of the quartermaster's department, was launched here Wednesday. The vessel will be used by Gen. Wood in the rivers of Mindanao during his campaign in that island.

Federation to Support Miners.

Denver, Colo.: The American federation of labor has taken up the fight of the Western federation of miners in Colorado, and will give it financial and moral support.

BUTLER INDICTED; KELLY AND GUTKE AGAIN ARRESTED

St. Louis: Edward Butler, charged in an indictment voted by the Grand Jury Wednesday with bribing Charles F. Kelly to leave the city when he was wanted as a witness, surrendered in Judge Taylor's court Thursday afternoon and gave bond in the sum of \$10,000.

Earlier in the day Butler, who had been one of their sureties, surrendered Kelly and Charles A. Gutke to the Sheriff on their bonds, and they were locked up in the city jail when he obtained his freedom. It is said he contemplates withdrawing from other boddies' bonds.

Gutke later gave a new bond and Kelly's wife and friends were making every effort Thursday night to have him released.

Acting upon the advice of Attorney Krone, Mrs. Kelly hired a carriage and toured the city in search of some one to go her husband's bond. She left home at 7 o'clock, hopeful that her quest would be successful. It was 11 o'clock when she returned, a trifle disheartened, but determined to renew her efforts in the morning. Mrs. Kelly refused to say whom she had asked to be her husband's surety. It was about 2:30 o'clock when Butler appeared in court, made his way

down the aisle to the bench, and in his usual cool manner inquired of Judge Taylor: "Have you an indictment against me?"

Judge Taylor instructed Clerk Stutz to call Circuit Attorney Folk, who soon entered the courtroom.

Mr. Folk had requested the issuance of a bench warrant for Butler of Judge Taylor, explaining that an indictment had been voted by the Grand Jury, but would not be ready to be returned in court for a few days. The warrant was served on Butler while he stood at the bar, and he announced that he was ready to give bond.

John J. O'Brien, the boiler manufacturer, and Edward Butler, Jr., the indicted man's son, easily qualified as the "Old Boss's" surety, and were accepted on the bond which was fixed at \$10,000. Then together the accused man and his sureties left the courtroom.

The indictment of Butler, it is believed, is not the only one that will grow out of the confessions of Gutke and Kelly and the testimony given the Grand Jury by Kelly's wife. While no definite information on the subject was obtainable at the Four Courts Thursday, it is reported that at least two more indictments will be found, if they have not already been found.

POSITION OF THE OPPOSING ARMIES, WITH A PICTURE OF FIELD
MARSHAL OYAMA.

In the map is shown Hai-Cheng, where a great battle that may mark an epoch in the war is being fought between the armies of Gen. Kourapatkin and the combined Japanese forces of Gens. Kuroki, Nodzu and Oku. A picture of Field Marshal Marquis Oyama, who has gone to the front to take the chief Japanese command, also is shown. The location of Siungshan, where the armies of Kuroki and Oku are said to have perfected a junction,

N. E. A. Elects New Officers.

St. Louis: At the largest meeting of the active members of the N. E. A. ever held in Festival hall at the World's Fair grounds Thursday at 12:30 o'clock, W. H. Maxwell was elected president for the ensuing year and J. W. Crabtree, inspector of the Nebraska high schools, secretary. The next annual meeting place has not been decided upon, the choice lying between Portland, Ore., and Asbury Park, N. J. The vice presidents for the following year are: John W. Cook, Illinois; C. P. Carey, Wisconsin; George B. Cook, Arkansas; J. N. Stude, Indiana; J. M. H. Frederick, Ohio; Alice Robertson, Indian Territory; E. H. Mark, Kentucky; H. H. Swayne, Montana; H. A. Matthews, Arizona; J. B. Caldwell, Louisiana; A. B. Poland, New Jersey; Charles D. Melver, North Carolina. The secretary, Irwin Shepard, is elected for a number of years, and the term does not expire this year.

Mysterious Fires at Nashville, Ill.

Nashville, Ill.: Fires of mysterious origin continue to break out in the business sections of this city at unseasonably hours of the night. The scene of Monday night's fire was the millinery store of Mrs. E. L. Martinez, causing damage to the amount of \$5,000. A fire was discovered in this building last Friday morning, but was extinguished after only a nominal loss.

On Friday morning of the preceding week flames destroyed property to the amount of several thousands of dollars in a business section several blocks from the scene of Tuesday's fire. Its origin was also mysterious.

Refuses to Pay Dog Tax.

Wabash, Ind.: Henry Bragg of this city, who was arrested last week for refusing to pay his dog tax, fined and sent to jail, has made an appeal to the British consul at Chicago for assistance.

Beats Grain Crops Into Ground.

Xenia, Ill.: Hail played havoc with growing crops and windows facing west eight miles north of this place about 9 o'clock Thursday night. It also beat wheat, oats and corn into the ground. Farmers in the path claim that their crops are ruined.

Duchess Obtains a Divorce.

Paris: A divorce was granted Thursday to the Duchess of Valenay, who was Helen Morton, daughter of Levi P. Morton, before her marriage, from the Duke of Valenay.

Lightning Kills Illinois Farmer.

McLeansboro, Ill.: Lute Finn, a farmer living three miles northwest of this city, was struck by lightning Thursday afternoon and instantly killed.

Kansas Rains Delay Harvest.

Arkansas City, Kas.: A 2-inch rain fell here Wednesday morning that will further delay the cutting of wheat. Many fields are badly damaged and will show a considerable loss. The corn on the high lands will be benefited.

Government Investigates Labor War.

Washington: The Bureau of Labor is making an investigation of the labor difficulties in Colorado under the organic act of the bureau, which charges the Commissioner of Labor to investigate the causes of and the facts relating to controversies between employers and employees. The investigation, which is already under way, may last for some time, as it is the intention of the bureau to go to the very beginning of the trouble.

HOMESEEKERS SEIZE A FREIGHT TRAIN

Preparing for Big Rush When Reser-
vation Is Opened.

Valentine, Neb.: Tuesday night a large crowd of homeseekers captured and by sheer force of numbers took possession of an eastbound freight train on the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley road. They had made their fillings in the morning after standing in line all night; the impossibility of obtaining hotel accommodations confronted them, the last passenger train for the day had come and gone, and tired, sleepy, hungry and desperate, they made up their minds to resort to heroic measures to get out of town. Some of them had bought tickets and some had not.

The moment the freight train stopped at the station they boarded it, completely filling the caboose and all the freight cars, and commanded the conductor to go ahead. The conductor refused to do this, and with the help of the brakemen and other trainmen sought to put the crowd off the train. But he quickly perceived that to do this was an utter impossibility and took another tack. He wired the division superintendent of his dilemma and received from him instructions to run the train upon the side track and to hold it there till the unwelcome passengers should leave it.

Some of the passengers threatened to resort to violent means to accomplish their purpose, but finally the crowd decided to give up the fight and left the train. Most of them waited the streets Tuesday night and Wednesday morning they left town, many going to Bonesteel, S. D., near here, where the opening of the Rosebud reservation takes place next week.

Prepare for Big Rush at Opening.

Bonesteel, S. D.: From the looks of this town, the very newest one in the great West, everybody has taken to the roads that lead, via Bonesteel, to the Rosebud Indian country, a large part of which is to be thrown open for settlement early next week.

In the town proper, hundreds of these seekers after Rosebud lands are camped in tents and wagons, while still others are gathered into the dozens of frail rooming houses which have been hastily thrown together.

Two years ago Bonesteel consisted of one lone general store. Two months ago it was a thriving town of 1,000. To-day it is a city of 7,000 souls. On July 4, it is estimated that 15,000 people will be here.

TRAINS IN KANSAS RUN THROUGH WATER

Flood Destroys All Chance for a Corn
Crop This Year.

Ottawa, Kas.: A second flood of the year came down the Marias des Cygnes Monday, less than a month after all high-water records in the town were broken. The river at Main street stood at 27 feet Monday evening. While this is 8.8 feet below the record of June 1, it cuts off communication with North Ottawa by Main street, and has driven about thirty families from their homes. The water and light plants can stand a few inches more of rise. The electric light plant was only started the latter part of last week, after the damages of the last flood were repaired. Railroad traffic was somewhat disarranged Sunday, through fear that the trains would be cut off near here, but trains were running practically on time Monday. The Missouri Pacific came through 10 inches of water in entering town from the west. The present flood has practically ended all hope for a crop in the lowlands this year. On some of the farms that are now under water corn had been planted for the fourth time.

Japanese Have Passed Barriers.

Tokio: It is stated by the war office that Gen. Oku's army has passed the mountain barrier, protecting the right flank and rear of Kuropatkin's forces, in the passes between Kai Ping and Motien. The Russian position has thus been rendered strategically untenable, and it is expected it will be made actually untenable in the course of the operations of the coming week unless the Russians resist the advance of the Japanese more successfully than hitherto. In that event Gen. Kuroki will be relieved of the necessity of attacking frontally the main strongholds of the Muscovites between Feng Hung Cheng and the railway.

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Col. Joseph H. Brigham.

Washington: News has been received here of the death at Delta, Ohio, Wednesday night of Col. Joseph H. Brigham, assistant secretary of agriculture. Col. Brigham was chairman of the government board at the St. Louis Exposition. He had left Tuesday evening for St. Louis to attend a meeting of the board and had stopped off at Delta for a short visit. For many years he had been prominent in Ohio politics and has occupied his present position since the first administration of President McKinley.

JAPANESE LURED RUSSIANS TO SEA

One Battleship Sunk and Another
Badly Damaged.

London: The Central News has received the following dispatch from its Tokyo correspondent, dated June 26, evening:

"A detailed account of the naval battle at Port Arthur has just been published here.

"The Russian battleships Peresviet, Poltava and Sevastopol and the cruisers Bayan, Askold and Novik attempted to emerge from the harbor at dawn on June 23, led by steamers used for clearing the mines. At 11 a. m. the battleships Czarovitch, Retvizan and Pobleda joined the others.

"All the ships then advanced, endeavoring to dispose of the mines laid by the Japanese, but they were hindered by two Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers, which had been guarding the mouth of the harbor.

"At 3 p. m. the Japanese torpedo boats exchanged shots with the seven Russian destroyers which were covering the clearing operations. One of the Russian destroyers was set on fire and retired inside the harbor.

"Subsequently the Japanese decoyed the Russians out to sea and awaited an opportunity to begin a general action, but between 8 and 9 p. m. the Russian ships made for the harbor.

"The Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers and torpedo boats chased the Russians, and at 9:20 delivered the first attack, in consequence of which the enemy was thrown into disorder.

"During the night eight separate attacks were delivered, lasting until dawn Friday.

"In one of these assaults the Chirataki twice torpedoed a battleship of the Peresviet type and sank her. A battleship of the Sevastopol type and a cruiser of the Diana type were disabled and towed away.

"The Russian vessels re-entered the harbor Friday.

"The newspapers published eulogistic articles upon Vice Admiral Togo's prompt action."

HINTS THAT DUMONT WAS TO BLAME

Conveys impression that the Aeronaut
Didn't Exercise Proper Vigilance.

St. Louis: The special report by Lieut. Col. Henry P. Kingsbury, commandant of the Jefferson guards at the World's Fair grounds, on the partial destruction of M. Santos-Dumont's airship at the aeronautic concourse some time Monday night or Tuesday morning was delivered to President Francis Wednesday afternoon. So far as made public, the report conveys the impression that the aeronaut did not exercise proper vigilance in guarding his machine, and that Dumont taken adequate precautions in co-operation with the Jefferson guards, the cutting would not have occurred.

As given out Wednesday afternoon, the report does not charge that Dumont himself was implicated in the affair. Colonel Kingsbury calls the president's attention to two facts which he appears to think bear strongly on the case. First, that Dumont was warned of the danger of leaving the box containing the balloon uncovered during the night, and of the necessity for appointing special guards, who would be given accommodations in the Aerodrome building; second, that one of Dumont's French assistants possesses a large knife. "Owing to the strength and numerous folds and thickness of the balloon envelope, some such knife as this would have been necessary to cut the balloon," says the report.

RUSSIANS DEFEATED EAST OF HAI CHENG

Muscovite Army Retreats North from
Ta Tche Kiao.

Tien Tsin: It is reported that the Russians were defeated about sixteen miles east of Hai Cheng Tuesday.

Owing to the rapid advance of the Japanese, the Russians at Ta Tche Kiao are hurriedly retreating north, fearing to be cut off.

The Japanese are continuing to advance from Siu Yen and Feng Wang Cheng. Gen. Oku is also moving north from Senn Chen.

The Japanese force advancing from the Mo Tien pass is composed of at least three regiments and ten batteries of artillery. A force of equal strength is advancing from Fen Shui pass, on the high road to Liao Yang. The flank move on the latter is supported by a column marching from Salmatza.

Two Kansas Girls Drown.

Kansas City, Mo.: Southern Kansas rivers are receding. At Seneca Wednesday Mary and Clara Hothaus, young girls, were drowned while watching the flood, the bank giving way and carrying them into the water.

Stitched Heart Gives Out.

Chicago: Surviving ten days after having a bullet wound in his heart sewed up, W. Edward Pelt, 15 years old, died Saturday. The youth shot himself in the heart with a revolver in Lincoln Park, June 15.

Warships to Leave Tangier.

Washington: As Pericaris and Varley have been returned to their home in Tangier, the Navy Department has cabled orders to Rear Admiral Chadwick to proceed on his cruise according to the original program.